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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/973,068	10/10/2001	Jacques Camerini	SCHN:009	4672

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WASHINGTON, DC 20036

EXAMINER

AILES, BENJAMIN A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2142

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/20/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/973,068

Applicant(s)

CAMERINI ET AL.

Examiner

Benjamin A. Ailes

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 November 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 and 12-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 12-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to correspondence filed 16 November 2006.
2. Claims 1-9 and 12-14 remain pending.

Claim Objections

3. Amendment to claim 12 has been entered and the previous objection has been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).
6. Claim 1-9, 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Synnestvedt et al. (U.S. 6,598,057), hereinafter referred to as Synnestvedt, in view of Matsuda et al. (US 7,039,688 B2), hereinafter referred to as Matsuda.
7. Regarding claim 1, Synnestvedt teaches a configuration method comprising:

assigning an application name for an automation module, said application name being unique on the TCP/IP network (col. 2, lines 47-51 and col. 4, lines 60-63);

sending by the automation module a request address query on the TCP/IP network, the request address query comprising the application name of the automation module and being in conformance with DHCP protocol (column 1, lines 54-57, col. 3, lines 43-48, col. 4, lines 5-8, and col. 5, lines 36-41, In the background of the Invention, column 1, lines 54-57, Synnestvedt teaches the use of DHCP).

sending by the automation module a read configuration query in conformance with FTP or TFTP protocol, on the TCP/IP network, to an FTP/TFTP server (col. 3, lines 40-53, specifically lines 44-48).

the automation assembly comprising:

at least one automation module connected to a TCP/IP network and equipped with a first processing unit connected to a first storage means and to a first network communication interface, wherein the automation module is for storing an application name specific to the automation module in the first storage means, and for executing a DHCP client process and an FTP/TFTP agent process in the first processing unit (col. 3, ll. 41-44, col. 3, line 54 – col. 4, line 8, col. 4, lines 61-63, and col. 6, ll. 20-24).

Synnestvedt teaches the first automation equipment connected to the TCP/IP network and equipped with a second processing unit connected to a second storage means and to a second network communication interface (col. 3, ll. 41-44, col. 3, line 54 – col. 4, line 8, col. 4, lines 61-63, and col. 6, ll. 20-24) but does not explicitly teach the memorizing of a configuration table thereby associating the application name of at least one DHCP client process with an IP address

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and a location of a data file, wherein the configuration table comprises two application names at its input corresponding to two IP addresses and two locations at its output. However, in related art, Matsuda teaches on this aspect by teaching a method for automatic network configuration of networked office appliances for providing network addressing, network naming, service discovery, and user identification in one system (see abstract) wherein service information is shared between network devices including user and group information (col. 6, ll. 2-4). Matsuda further teaches the use of a table that records for each network device an application name (i.e. MAC address) and other information (i.e. IP address) (col. 12, ll. 49-61) and the recording of available services used through service discovery (col. 14, ll. 51-56). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to utilize a configuration table to record information related to network appliances as taught by Matsuda in combination with the configuration methods taught by Synnestvedt. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to make such a combination wherein it is taught by Matsuda to utilize a configuration table wherein it is advantageous in the configuration of network devices to keep network names consistent and solve network conflicts when deemed necessary.

8. Regarding claim 2, Synnestvedt and Matsuda teach the configuration method wherein one of said automation equipment connected to the TCP/IP network comprises a DHCP server compliant with DHCP protocol (Synnestvedt, col. 3, lines 62-67),

9. Regarding claim 3, Synnestvedt and Matsuda teach the configuration method wherein one of said automation equipment connected to the TCP/IP network comprises an FTP/TFTP server (Synnestvedt, col. 3, lines 62-67).

10. Regarding claim 4, Synnestvedt and Matsuda teach the configuration method wherein sending by the automation module further comprises the automation module receiving a response to the request address query from a DHCP server, said response containing an IP address and a location of a data file specific to the automation module, making possible sending by the automation module a read configuration query (Synnestvedt, col. 4, lines 5-8, col. 5, lines 28-32, and col. 6, lines 20-24).

11. Regarding claim 5, Synnestvedt and Matsuda teach the method wherein the read configuration query uses the location of the data file for the automation module (Synnestvedt, col. 3, lines 44-48 and col. 4, lines 60-63).

12. Regarding claim 6, Synnestvedt and Matsuda teach the configuration method additionally comprising sending by the automation module a read configuration query receiving by the automation module a response to the read configuration query from the FTP/TFTP server, the response containing the data file for the automation module, so that the automation module can then change to an operational state (Synnestvedt, col. 4, lines 5-8, col. 5, lines 28-32, and col. 8, lines 19-22).

13. Regarding claim 7, Synnestvedt and Matsuda teach the configuration method wherein the data file of the automation module is identified by the application name of the automation module (Synnestvedt, col. 4, lines 60-62).

14. Regarding claim 8, Synnestvedt and Matsuda teach the configuration method wherein when the automation module is in an operational state, the automation module sends a write configuration query on its own initiative to the FTP/TFTP server to update or save all or some of

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the automation module data file (Synnestvedt, col. 3, lines 46-53, col. 4, lines 21-26, and col. 5, lines 22-26).

15. Regarding claim 9, Synnestvedt and Matsuda teach the configuration method wherein when the automation module is in an operational state, the automation module sends a read configuration query on its own initiative to the FTP/TFTP server to check or reload all or some of the automation module data file (Synnestvedt, col. 5, lines 22-26).

16. Regarding claim 12, Synnestvedt and Matsuda teach the automation assembly comprising a second automation equipment connected to the TCP/IP network and comprising a third processing unit connected to a third storage means and to a third network communication interface, wherein the second automation equipment is for executing an FTP/TFTP server process in its processing unit and for memorizing a data file corresponding to at least one FTP/TFTP agent process in said third storage means (Synnestvedt, col. 3, lines 41-44, col. 3, line 54 – col. 4, line 8, col. 4, lines 61-63, and col. 6, lines 20-24).

17. Regarding claim 13, Synnestvedt and Matsuda teach the automation assembly wherein the first automation equipment is for executing an FTP/TFTP server in said second processing unit and for storing a data file corresponding to at least one FTP/TFTP agent in said second storage means (Synnestvedt, col. 3, lines 40-53).

18. Regarding claim 14, Synnestvedt and Matsuda teach wherein the application name is formed by concatenation of predefined characters characterizing the application module in combination with an assigned number (Matsuda, col. 12, ll. 51-55).

Response to Arguments

19. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

20. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Benjamin A. Ailes whose telephone number is (571)272-3899. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 6:30-4, IFP Work Schedule.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Caldwell can be reached on (571)272-3868. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

baa

Beatriz Prieto
BEATRIZ PRIETO
PRIMARY EXAMINER